

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting
March 20, 2008
Fish and Game Headquarters
Boise, Idaho**

A special meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was held by telephone conference. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cameron Wheeler at 8:00 a.m. with Commissioners Barowsky, Budge, McDermott, Trevey, and Wright participating.

Present in the Director's office were Deputy Director Virgil Moore; Dallas Burkhalter, Deputy Attorney General; Sharon Kiefer, Inter-Governmental Policy Coordinator; Mike Keckler, Communications Chief; Rachel Byington, Administrative Assistant.

LEGISLATION

Legislative Updates

Sharon Kiefer briefed the Commission on pending legislation.

New Bill Analysis and Discussion:

HB 643 – Invasive Species Act. This bill grants some broad new authority to the Director of the Department of Agriculture. Primarily the bill is adding new duties and authorities, it creates the Invasive Species fund but there has not yet been appropriation to actually fund the fund. The bill does set up new penalties for invasive species.

HB 640 - This bill would add a \$10.00 surcharge to all specialty license plates. Of the 100,000 or so specialty license plates sold per year, the wildlife specialty license plates program accounts for about half of the specialty license plates sold on an annual basis. The Department is prepared give testimony if a hearing takes place (Exhibit 41, Exhibit 43).

Previously Discussed Bill Update:

Sharon gave an update to the Commissioners on bills. Bill tracking spreadsheets were provided via email to the Commissioners (Appendix 41, Exhibit 44).

The House has passed SB 1374 Wolf Depredation Control Provision into Statute.

The House has passed SB 1441 Uniform laws for firearms.

The Senate State Affairs Committee gave a do pass on HB 604. HB 604 is the revision of shooting range regulations relative to private ranges.

The Senate has passed HB 629 the Idaho Department of Fish and Game Appropriation

CONSENT CALENDAR

08-38 Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Trevey seconded a motion TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 24, 2008, JANUARY 31, 2008 AND FEBRUARY 7, 2008 MINUTES. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

MISCELLANEOUS

Deputy Director Moore informed the Commission of an action going on for a request regarding the Department's depredation account. There is some discussion for an emergency appropriation for this year that may go through the process so that the Department can pay 100% of all of the depredations submissions coming in.

Adjournment

The Commission meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Cameron Wheeler
Chairman

Cal Groen
Secretary